



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
MANAGER'S REPORT

DATE ISSUED: October 7, 2004

REPORT NO. 04-226

ATTENTION: Honorable Mayor and City Council
Docket of October 12, 2004

SUBJECT: San Diego Regional Fire Prevention and Emergency
Preparedness Task Force Report

SUMMARY RECOMMEND THAT THE CITY COUNCIL ACCEPT THE
SAN DIEGO REGIONAL FIRE PREVENTION AND
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS TASK FORCE REPORT
DATED 10/07/04.

BACKGROUND

On November 12, 2003, the San Diego Regional Fire Prevention and Emergency Preparedness Task Force was established by Mayor Dick Murphy, City of San Diego and Supervisor Greg Cox, Chairman of the San Diego County Board of Supervisors. The Task Force's mission was to establish a forum for representatives of all Public Safety Agencies to review, discuss, and develop proposals for all-risk service enhancements in the San Diego Region. Task Force members were charged with developing an action-oriented plan or initiative process to help avert future catastrophes associated with all-risk hazards. The Task Force conducted meetings and developed recommendations over the past nine months following the Cedar Fire.

The Task Force focused on three primary goals:

1. How can the City and County better prepare for emergencies?
2. How can the region more effectively use existing resources?
3. What changes to, and enforcement of existing codes, regulations, and ordinances are needed?

As a result of subcommittee analysis and research, specific findings, recommendations, and action plans are outlined in the final report issued October 7, 2004.

DISCUSSION

Task Force members identified a total of nineteen different issues. To insure this document is put into action, the Task Force assigned action plans, responsible parties, and completion dates for implementation. Of the nineteen issues, San Diego Fire-Rescue has identified the following key county-wide issues as the highest priorities in terms of protecting lives and properties within this region:

- 1B. Review Alerting/Notification Procedures and Plans
- 1C. Review Incident Intelligence Communications to Include Evacuation Plans and Procedures
- 2A. Regionalize Services to Avoid Duplication
- 2E. Consider Additional Volunteer Resources
- 3A. Review Inconsistencies, Changes to, and Enforcement of Countywide Building/Fire Codes
- 3B. Review and Recommend Changes to and Enforcement of Countywide Urban Interface with Brush Management Codes
- 3C. Review and Recommend Changes to Open Space Brush Management Policies.

San Diego Fire-Rescue Department is committed to working in partnership with the appropriate City, County, State and Federal agencies to insure a coordinated and consistent approach is adhered to for implementing the recommendations made in this Task Force Report. Although Fire-Rescue concurs with the language and content of the report, it is imperative that we first meet with the appropriate City departments and entities to discuss and assess any fiscal and staffing implications these recommendations would have on the City of San Diego, if implemented.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Bowman
Fire Chief

P. Lamont Ewell
City Manager

BOWMAN/TKJ